

59-W
Action

ARA

196

G

SF

C

I

INR

EUR

SCA

MC

SY

R MR

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2270, March 7, 1 p.m.

PRIORITY

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

Re explosion of French ship and Castro's charge US responsible.

[REDACTED] confidentially informed me yesterday he has learned from seamen on LA COUBRE that whereas this ship had loaded 400 tons of munitions for Cuba openly at quay side in Antwerp last October, present shipment of 72 tons was loaded there with great security precautions in middle of river. This fact has struck seamen as meaning 72 tons were more dangerous cargo than last October's and they had accordingly requested extra wages but were turned down.

[REDACTED] offered other possibly useful facts as follows:

- (1) Captain had radioed Habana port authorities he was prepared to anchor in bay for unloading but had been specifically directed not to do so but to come alongside pier;
- (2) Soldiers were sent to guard unloading, but security precautions were slack, and many persons, particularly military, were swarming over vessel and getting in the way;
3. [REDACTED] believed unloading done by soldiers, not stevedores.

[REDACTED] obviously hoped this information would assist US to disprove Castro's charge of US complicity in sabotage, but he asked we not link him to information

in any

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS
COPY IS PROHIBITED.
UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

PERMANENT

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD COPY. This copy must be returned to [REDACTED] central files with notation of action taken

REVIEWED BY D. J. SCHEPPE 11/17/82

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

951.733-LA COUBRE/3-760

CLASSIFIED FILE

11 FEB 1961

B1, EB

B1, EB

B1, EB

B1, EB

B1, EB

B1, EB

B1, EB